The gel dentifrices may be prepared in accordance with generally employed preparation techniques, with uniform appearance or with stripes.

The following examples are further illustrative of the nature of the present invention, but it is understood that the invention is not limited thereto. All amounts and proportions referred to herein and in the appended claims are by weight unless otherwise indicated.

EXAMPLE 1

The following gel dentifrice is prepared:

	Parts			
Glycerine (99.5% Solution)	9.950	Glycerine	0.050	Water
Sorbitol (70% Solution)	33.880	Sorbitol	14.570	Water
Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose - 7MF	0.400			
Iota Carrageenan	0.400			
Sodium Fluoride	0.243			
Sodium Saccharin	0.300			
Polyvinylmethyl Ether/Maleic anhydride-Gantrez S-97	2.000			
Sodium Hydroxide (50% Solution)	0.600	Sodium Hydroxide	0.600	Water
Precipitated silica-Zeodent 113	22.000			
Sodium Lauryl Sulfate	1.500			
Flavor	1.000			
Triclosan	0.300			
Water-deionized			12.257	
Total water - 27.477 Parts				

The gel dentifrice is and remains very transparent.

The refractive index of Zeodent 113 is 1.430. The calculated refractive index of the liquid vehicle components, water, glycerine and 705 sorbitol is 1.437. In spite of the differences in refractive indices, clarity results. A substantial part of water hydrates the swellable Gantrez copolymer.

EXAMPLE 2

The following primary gel dentifrice of this example is prepared:

	Parts			
Glycerine (99.5%)	9.950	Glycerine	0.050	Water
Sorbitol (70%)	38.880	Sorbitol	14.520	Water
Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose - 7MF	0.400			
Iota Carrageenan	0.400			
Sodium Fluoride	0.243			
Sodium Saccharin	0.300			
Polyvinylmethyl Ether/Maleic andride-Luviform FA 139 (35%)	1.842	Luviform	3.421	Water
Sodium Hydroxide (50%)	0.600	Sodium Hydroxide	0.600	Water
Precipitated silica-Zeodent 113	22.000			
Sodium Lauryl Sulfate	1.500			
Flavor	1.000			
Triclosan	0.300			
Water-deionized			8.994	
Total water - 27.585 Parts				

The primary gel dentifrice is highly transparent after stabilizing for about 12 hours at room temperature following preparation and remains so.

A variant gel dentifrice in which the liquid vehicle contents are varied as follows:

	Parts		
Glycerine (99.5%)	22.686 (Glycerine)	0.114	Water
Sorbitol (70%)	23.870 (Sorbitol)	10.23	Water
Water-deionized		10.50	
Total Water (including 0.600 parts from 50% solution of sodium hydroxide and 3.421 (parts from 35% solution of Luviform) = 24.865			

The variant gel dentifrice is and remains turbid and very cloudy.

The refractive index of Zeodent 113 is 1.430. The calculated refractive index of the primary gel dentifrice is 1.4378 while the calculated refractive index of the variant gel dentifrice, containing less water, is 1.4373. Even though the refractive index of the varient gel is somewhat closer to the refractive of Zeodent 113, nevertheless, the primary gel dentifrice possesses much superior clarity.

EXMAPLE 3

The following very clear gel dentifrice is prepared:

	Parts			
Sorbitol (70%)	41.800	Sorbitol	17.920	Water
Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose - 7MF	0.400			
Iota Carrageenan	0.400			
Sodium Fluoride	0.243			
Sodium Saccharin	0.300			
Polyvinylmethyl Ether/Maleic Anhydride-Luviform FA 139 (35%)	1.842	Luviform	3.421	Water
Sodium Hydroxide (50%)	0.600	Sodium Hydroxide	0.600	Water
Precipitated silica-Zeodent 113	22.000			
Sodium Lauryl Sulfate	1.500			
Flavor	1.000			
Triclosan	0.300			
Water-deionized			7.674	
Total water - 29.615 Parts				

This invention has been described with respect to certain preferred embodiments and it will be understood that modifications and variations thereof obvious to those skilled in the art are to be included within the purview of this application and the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A visually clear gel dentifrice comprising about 5–50% by weight of a dentally acceptable dentifrice polishing agent having a refractive index in the range of about 1.41 to about 1.47, about 0.1%–10% by weight of a gelling agent to provide a gel consistency to said dentifrice, a liquid vehicle comprising an amount of at least 25% up to 30% by weight of said dentifrice of total water and about 30%–45% by weight of said dentifrice on a neat basis of sorbitol humectant material wherein sorbitol is present as the main or only humectant component in neat amount of at least about 30% by weight of said dentifrice and other humectant, if present, is in neat amount up to 15% by weight and about 1%–4% neat amount by weight of dentifrice of a water-swellable synthetic anionic polycarboxylate polymer, wherein the visual clarity of said gel dentifrice is and remains stable.